

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6518

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJ: MEETING WITH DAYAN: BEGIN STATEMENT ON GENEVA CONFERENCE

1. DURING MY MEETING LAST NIGHT (AUGUST 30) WITH DAYAN
I READ TO HIM A NEWS TICKER QUOTATION FROM PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN'S AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE UPON HIS RETURN FROM
ROMANIA (A) REJECTING ASAD'S REPORTED PROPOSAL THAT THE ARAB
LEAGUE REPRESENT THE PLO IN GENEVA, AND (B) STATING THAT BE-
CAUSE OF ITS INSISTENCE ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE "THE ARAB STATES MAKE THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE IMPOSSIBLE." I ASKED IF HE COULD PROVIDE ANY INSIGHTS
INTO BEGIN'S STATEMENT, ADDING THAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOST UN-
FORTUNATE IF ALL AVENUES TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE WERE UNILATERALLY
RULED OUT BY ISRAEL BEFORE THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND EXPLORED BY
ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES.

2. DAYAN REPLIED THAT ISRAEL'S POLICY WAS CLEAR: "WE DO NOT WANT
ANY ADDITIONAL APARTIES THERE, EVEN INCLUDING THE JEWISH CONGRESS
LED BY NAHUM GOLDMAN HIMSELF.THE CONFERENCE MUST BE ONLY BETWEEN
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SVEREIGN STATES." THERE COULD BE NO ADDITIONAL PARTIES PRESENT
AND ISRAEL WOULD REJECT EFFORTS TO INCLUDE ANY, WHOEVER THEY MIGHT
BE. THIS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED THE ARAB LEAGUE.

3. RECALLING THAT ONE OF THE OPTIONS FOR PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION
AT GENEVA THE SECRETARY HAD OUTLINED HERE DURING HIS VISIT HAD
INCLUDED AN IDEA FROM SADAT THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN ARAB LEAGUE

COMPONENT ALONG WITH THE NATIONAL DELEGATIONS, I SAID I DID NOT RECALL ANY DISCUSSION AT THE TIME INDICATING ISRAEL REJECTED THE IDEA OUT OF HAND. WAS THE PRIME MINISTER NOW SAYING THERE WERE NO ALTERNATIVES WHATSOEVER AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSION EXCEPT THE ISRAELI POSITION: I.E., NON-PLO PALESTINIANS WITHIN THE JORDAN DELEGATION?

4. DAYAN ANSWERED HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH BEGIN, BUT HE WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S POSITION. WE EXCHANGED FURTHER RECOLLECTIONS OF THE DISCUSSION HERE DURING THE VANCE TRIP, AND I SAID AGAIN THAT I DID NOT RECALL ANY FLAT ISRAELI REJECTION OF THIS IDEA, WHICH, HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY HAD REPORTED AT THE TIME HAD NOT MET WITH FAVOR IN THE OTHER ARAB CAPITALS. IN ANY CASE, I NOTED, WHATEVER ASAD MAY HAVE NOW SAID ON THE SUBJECT, IT DID NOT SEEM PRUDENT TO ME FOR ANY PARTY TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS IMPOSSIBLE. DAYAN INTERRUPTED TO NOTE HE THOUGHT IT WAS MERELY ANY DIRECT ROLE FOR THE PLO TO WHICH BEGIN WAS REFERRING AT HIS AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE.

5. I AGAIN ASKED IF BEGIN'S STATEMENT MEANT THAT EXAMINATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVES OTHER THAN THOSE ISRAEL PREFERRED WAS NOW FORECLOSED. AFTER REPEATING HIS ARGUMENT THAT ONLY STATES COULD BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA, DAYAN THEN SLIGHTLY REOPENED THE DOOR BY OBSERVING IF ASAD WERE REFERRING TO AN ARAB LEAGUE ROLE IN A FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE CONFERENCE THEN HE WOULD WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. I SAID THAT ONCE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE STARTED TO WORK I COULD FORESEE THE PROBABLE NEED FOR SERIES OF FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES TO DISCUSS A RANGE OF SUBJECTS, CITING DEMILITARIZATION PROBLEMS AS ONE EXAMPLE. NODDING, DAYAN REPLIED THAT HE WOULD WANT TO STUDY THE QUESTION FURTHER BEFORE MAKING ANY DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT.

6. IN A FINAL SALLY TO LEAVE HIM IN NO DOUBT WE WERE CONCERNED BY BEGIN'S STATEMENT, I SAID THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THE IMPLICATION REMAINED THAT BEGIN WAS SAYING THERE COULD BE NO GENEVA CONFERENCE. DAYAN QUICKLY REPLIED: "NOT SO. YOU WILL BE POSITIVELY SURPRISED WITH WHAT I AM BRINGING TO WASHINGTON."
LEWIS

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